

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Water Supply Subcommittee November 12, 2003 Meeting Summary

Bonderson Building Hearing Room
9:00 a.m. to noon

Welcome and Introductions -9:10 am

The following subcommittee members and alternates attended the meeting:
Steve Hall, Richard Denton, Jerry Meral, Greg Gartrell, Van Tenney, Bernice Sullivan,
and Lloyd Fryer, Bob Shewalba (sp.) for Joan Maher and Dan Nelson.

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

1. In –Delta Storage Project Update
2. Common Assumptions Effort Update
 - a. CALSIM II Baseline Assumptions
 - b. Surface Storage Program Progress Report
3. South Delta Improvement and Bay-Delta Program Update
4. Bulletin 160 Development Status
5. Briefing on Shasta Reservoir Enlargement Planning

Agenda Items and Discussions

1. In-Delta Storage Project Update (Presenter – Stephen S. Roberts)

The State Feasibility Study draft reports completed in July 2003 were released for agencies and CALFED Science Panel Review. A CALFED Science Public Workshop was held on August 20, 2003 and the Science Panel report is under preparation. The DWR management review of the State Feasibility Draft Executive Summary in September, 2003 recommended need for further quantification of benefits for scenarios with emphasis on water supply, Environmental Water Account and Delta ecosystem restoration. Revised operation studies for these three scenarios are in progress. A ten page Briefing Paper for management will be prepared tentatively by the first week of December.

After the Draft Executive Summary and supporting reports (operations, water quality, and economics) are updated with new information on scenarios, reports are expected to be released in December 2003 for a 30 day public review. Realizing the need for CALFED agencies, stakeholders and public input, it is anticipated that draft recommendations for BDPAC Water Supply Subcommittee (WSS) will be available in February, 2004.

In summary, the revised process and timelines are as follows.

CALFED Science Panel Report

December 1, 2003

Management Briefing Paper	December 5, 2003
Revisions to Feasibility Study Reports	December 12, 2003
Public Review Period	Dec 15 to January 15, 2004
BDPAC WSS Review	February 11, 2004
BDPAC and CBDA Workshops	March 1-10, 2004
BDPAC Review	March 11, 2004
CBDA Review	April 8, 2004

Comments:

The WSS asked if the modeling could be contracted out to speed completion of the reports. Staff response was that the current task is detailed, fine-tuning of a daily CALSIM II and DSM2 model developed specifically for this project. Contracting out would require training people unfamiliar with the project, would take away from the tasks at hand and delay the modeling completion.

Action Items:

1. Present the final report and recommendations at the February 2004 WSS meeting.

2. Common Assumptions Update (Presenter – Sean Sou)

CALSIM II Baseline Assumptions - Update

Staff presented a brief update of recent activities performed by the common assumptions effort. See attached meeting materials. The purpose of the common assumptions effort is to develop a common benchmark for use in environmental documentation for the CALFED Surface Storage investigations. By direction from the WSS at the last meeting, a Stakeholder Technical Workgroup consisting of technical staff from State and federal water contractors and environmental group representatives will be held in December or January to review the *Draft Table A: Proposed CALSIM II Baseline Inputs for Common Assumptions* document, distributed at the last WSS meeting. Current thinking is that the Operation Criteria and Plan (OCAP) modeling assumptions will be included in the Common Assumptions future conditions.

Comments/Action Items:

1. Anyone who knows of additional stakeholder technical staff who should be invited to the Stakeholder Technical Workgroup should contact Sean Sou at 916-651- 9269 or (sou@water.ca.gov).
2. Update the WSS on the results of the technical review at the next meeting in January 2004.

Surface Storage Program Progress Report - Update

The California Bay-Delta Authority and DWR management originally asked for a Surface Storage Program Progress Report presentation to the BDPAC on December 10,

2003 to coincide with the In-Delta Project Study presentation. The report was to provide information to interested stakeholders on the full range of potential benefits each CALFED storage project could offer. Several operating scenarios were to be modeled on a common baseline and results presented for each project.

After coordination and further evaluation with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Progress Report will not be quantitative since it is not possible to complete the needed modeling (at least 15 CALSIMII scenarios) on a common baseline (that is not developed) at this time. The first Progress Report will be prepared without modeling results that describes the ROD objectives, need, preliminary description/scenarios, study schedules, and potential benefits for each project. The first report will be presented to the WSS in February 2004. Future Progress Reports will be presented periodically to the WSS that contain modeling results as they become available (likely my mid-summer).

Comments/Actions Items:

1. The Surface Storage Program Progress Report will be presented to the WSS at the February 2004 meeting.

3.) South Delta Improvement and Bay-Delta Program Update (Presenter - Tom Glover)

The presentation emphasized that the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) consists of three basic components namely, supply reliability, water quality improvements and the Environmental Water Account (EWA). Each component was described in detail and has many subprojects. The SDIP is one of several CALFED projects that must progress together to maintain a balanced program as outlined in the Integrated Key Milestones Schedule. The SDIP Draft EIR/S will reflect the recent state and federal water project integration proposals and OCAP assumptions either as baseline or cumulative effects assumptions. The SDIP Draft EIR/S, as all CALFED project environmental documents, will under go public review and all comments will be addressed.

The next steps are to:

1. Continue stakeholder involvement through the WSS. A briefing will be scheduled for the January 2004 WSS meeting.
2. Finalize the characteristics, funding source and operating principles for a long term EWA –in about two weeks, and
3. Incorporate key Delta water quality improvement projects into the Integrated Key Milestones Schedule.

Comments:

WSS members and audience praised the collaborative efforts to integrate the federal and state systems as a “very positive initiative.” It was announced that DWR would have a public meeting to discuss OCAP and the SDIP in detail on the afternoon of November 25, 2003.

There were several concerns that with so many planned changes in so many separate State, federal and CALFED projects that there would not be one environmental document to cover them all. In addition, the OCAP and project integration proposals that provide the foundation for all the projects are still contingent on NEPA/CEQA review. There were questions about over allocation of water and what document would cover financing issues. Federal and state representatives assured commenters that the significant operational items will be covered in the SDIP DEIR/S alternatives review and the rest will be in the cumulative affect section. Funding has already been provided for in Proposition 13 and CVPIA. There was one commenter that warned of a “train whistle” alerting project proponents of a potential train wreck if all issues are not covered in the environmental documents.

CALFED Water Quality Improvement Projects (Presenter –David Briggs, CCWD)

Mr. Briggs was asked to present the Rock Slough and Old River water quality improvement projects that were components of the SDIP. See presentation materials for details. The Rock Slough lining and Veal and Byron Tract agricultural drainage relocation projects were discussed. All projects deal with reducing salt load to the South Delta caused by low quality surface and groundwater runoff. Rock slough will be lined and agricultural discharges improved by a combination of relocating drainage systems and source controls using best management practices. Draft Environmental documents will be noticed for review in November and December 2003 for Byron and Veal, and August 2005 for the canal lining.

Comments:

There were several questions concerning the types of BMP's and availability of project funding. Studies and some construction funding will be provided by CALFED through Proposition 13.

Environmental Water Account – Tom Glover

EWA is a key component of the SDIP and there are three steps to reach agreement on a long term EWA. They are to determine the size, financing and operating rules. Recent modeling and gaming has determined an adequate sized EWA. Financing will be covered in the CALFED Draft Finance Plan due out by the end of November. A 50%/50% split between water contractors and government financing is being contemplated. There will be a presentation on EWA at the SDIP and OCAP meeting on November 25, 2003.

Comments

Several opinions about the appropriate funding split were voiced. Concerns over whether EWA was mitigation or recovery seemed to be the key issue; hence, the 50/50 split on funding. Questions on the demarcation date for the environmental baseline and who makes the final call on the operations of EWA were asked. The five management and

planning agencies will have the final word on the EWA package. The demarcation date is yet unresolved.

Action items:

1. The presentation materials will be posted on the WSS web page.
2. The Integrated Key Milestones Schedule will be posted on the WSS web page.
3. The agenda, time, and place of the EWA, OCAP and SDIP November 25, 2003 briefing will be posted on the WSS web page.
4. The WSS requested a briefing on the EWA at the January or February 2004 meeting.
5. The WSS requested regular updates on the SDIP/OCAP/EWA project “package”.
Next update will be at the January 2004 meeting.

4) Bulletin 160 Briefing (Presenter - Paul Dabbs)

It was announced that the release of the Administrative Draft and Public Review Draft of Bulletin 160 will be delayed by two months, to January and March 2004, in order to address comments received in September from Stakeholders and for the Advisory Group to review those changes. A new schedule was distributed. See meeting materials. The final water plan update is still scheduled for release in December 2004.

The Bulletin is taking a fresh start from the past. It will use actual data not statistical; it will present several “water portfolios”, reported by region using multiple scenarios to account for uncertainty and risk. There are currently 25 strategies being evaluated to meet future demands. The new start also creates new challenges. There is a lack of data for the portfolios, modeling tools are not developed, and developing the new process took one and one half years to reach consensus. Coupled with reduced staff and budget along with a lack of consensus on many issues, the water plan will not comprehensively derive a 2030 water demand for California. Gross estimates to accommodate growth, recover groundwater overdraft, restore the environment, and maintain agriculture have been made that show there is a need for 3-5 MAF of new water by 2030. It is anticipated that models and data will be available to quantitatively derive future demand in the 2008 Bulletin.

Comments:

Attendees questioned the need for new procedures and replacement of existing models, why consensus is needed on a strategic planning document, why the demand estimates are really supply estimates, and why isn’t the demand actually more? There was criticism for specifically bulleting the lack of consensus over “surface storage” when many issues that lacked consensus. There were many questions when an “Investment Guide to Meet 2030 Water Demands” was presented that categorized surface storage as less reliable than “soft” water use efficiency activities.

Action Items:

1. The WSS requested regular updates on the preparation of Bulletin 160. The next update will be at the January 2004 meeting.

5) Briefing on Shasta Reservoir Enlargement Planning (Presenter –Ms. Donna Garcia)

The Shasta Lake investigation has federal feasibility authority to proceed and is currently in the plan formulation stage. Over the next several months, several alternative plans will be developed and compared. Following federal guidelines, a full range of alternatives will be reviewed which include alternatives beyond those mentioned in the CALFED ROD. A feasibility report will be prepared that recommends the best alternative, and defines both federal and non-federal interest which includes funding commitments. The feasibility report is the agency decision document submitted to Congress for federal funding.

The project objectives are to increase anadromous fish populations in the upper Sacramento River and increase water supply reliability. Secondary objectives are to restore ecosystem resources in the study area, reduce flood damages in the upper Sacramento River, and develop hydropower. Stakeholder briefings are under way to encourage participation. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2003. The most significant issues are the impacts to the McCloud River and the inability to receive landowner access to complete environmental and engineering studies.

Comments:

Questions centered on the height of the raise, river flow regime, and potential inundation effects. The dam raises studied in the past range from 6.5 and 200 feet. Recent studies indicate the most cost effective raises are between 6.5 and about 20 feet. Inundation affects have not been resolved and flow regime studies have not yet been conducted.

Action Items: None.

Future Meeting Dates

Steve Hall informed attendees that:

1. The next BDPAC meeting will be a joint meeting with the CBDA Board on December 11, 2003.
2. No WSS meeting will be held in December 2003.
3. The next regular meeting of the WSS will be on January 14, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 am.